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Reverend Jim Harper III, Pastor

June 5, 2016

Third Sunday After Pentecost

OPENING OF WORSHIP

Prelude

My Hope is Built
William Bradbury

Opening Words of Worship

The well of God is full — come and drink!
The table of God is set — come and eat!
God's kindness and goodness and mercy are overflowing —
open your hearts to receive them!
It is no accident that you and I are here,
that we are together and that God is with us.
God desires to be with us,
so we can find joy in the Divine Presence.
Give God all your worship,
whether you have much or little.
God is worthy of all we bring.
And where you find yourself empty, allow God to fill you.
Great God, we give you our praise.
May it be pleasing in your sight and proclaim your great glory!
Amen.

***Prayer of Blessing for Our Time Together** (Unison)

**Thank you God for the FOOD before us.
Thank you God for the FAMILY and FRIENDS beside us.
Thank you God for the LOVE between us.
Amen.**

***Gloria Patri** (Unison)

Henry W. Greatorex (From Red Hymnal #623)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

***Passing of the Peace as You Fill Your Plates**

*Greet one another and pass along the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
You may say, "Peace be with you." The response is "And also with you."*

***Opening Songs**

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty (iWorship Video)
Fairest Lord Jesus (iWorship Video)

SHARING OF GOD'S STORY

Prayer for Illumination

God, there are sometimes passages of Your Word that cause us to shake our heads.
What do they really mean? What do they say about who You are?
We know that through Your Still Speaking Spirit, You can bring clarity
and understanding. So, we pray for Your Still Speaking Spirit to
illuminate the way as we enter Your Scriptures today.
Remove the distractions and clear our minds as we visit with this story.
We believe Your words are true and life-changing.
Transform us through Your words today. Amen.

Scripture of the Day

Luke 7:11-17

Jesus raises a widow's son

¹¹ A little later Jesus went to a city called Nain. His disciples and a great crowd traveled with him. ¹² As he approached the city gate, a dead man was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. ¹³ When he saw her, the Lord had compassion for her and said, "Don't cry." ¹⁴ He stepped forward and touched the stretcher on which the dead man was being carried. Those carrying him stood still. Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, get up." ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

¹⁶ Awestruck, everyone praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding region.

~ Scripture Reading from the Common English Bible (CEB)

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

O Christ, You Are Life

LYONS 10. 10. 11. 11 ("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")

Eva Morse, Vocalist

Song Lyrics Removed for Website Publication

Biblical Reference: Luke 7:11-17, 36-50, 7:22, 15:1-32, 4:18

Tune: Joseph Martin Kraus, 1784; until recently attributed to Johann Michael Haydn
("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!") (MIDI)

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Meditation

Gorgeous Compassion

Song of Prayer (Printed on Page 8) ***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***
(Verses 1 & 4)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Call to Prayer

God of love and light,
shine into our lives and bring Your love into our souls.
Remind us of the amazing ways You have loved us,
even when we turned our backs on You.

Open our hearts to receive Your loving spirit.

Open our minds to receive Your wisdom.

Open our hands to show others Your loving compassion.

God of love and light,
we hold in our hearts those around us who feel unloved.
We bring them to You for You to shine Your love into their lives.

**We hold in our minds those who are
overwhelmed by their needs and difficulties.**

We hold in our hands Your loving compassion to give them.

God of love and light,
there are people and places that are dark
and in the dark about Your love.

**Shine forth Your light and love
in their lives and in those places.**

There are people and places that have closed their minds to You,
to others, to new and fresh ideas.

**Shine forth Your light and love to open their minds to You,
to others, and to new and fresh ideas.**

There are people and places that need our hands
reaching out to them with Your loving compassion.

**May our reaching out to them with Your love and compassion,
shine forth your light and love. Amen.**

~ Written by Rev Abi, and posted on Rev Abi's Long and Winding Road blog. <http://vicarofwadley.blogspot.ca/>

***A Prayer of Blessing for St. Luke's UCC and
The Rev. Jennifer Mills-Knutsen***

The Prayer of Our Savior (Unison – Printed on Pages 9 & 10)

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

**SHARING OF OUR GIFTS
AND GOD'S GIFTS**

Call to Give

Extravagant God, as You have lavished Your grace and blessings upon us,
so we delight to share our bounty with others.

Thank You for the privilege of participating in Your kingdom.

Use these gifts, we pray, to bring healing, comfort and hope
to a world in need of You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

****Doxology*** (Unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise God and Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Blessing of the Bread, the Cup

Let us bless the bread
that gives itself to us
with its terrible weight,
its infinite grace.

Let us bless the cup
poured out for us
with a love that drenches,
that makes us anew.

Let us gather
around these gifts
simply given
and deeply blessed.

And then let us go
bearing the bread,
carrying the cup,
setting the table
within a hungering world.

~ Adapted from a prayer written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on The Painted Prayerbook.
<http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

Words of Institution

Sharing the Gifts of Spiritual Life

Prayer of Thanksgiving for These Gifts of Spiritual Life **Table Benediction**

Produced by The Work of the People

CLOSING OF WORSHIP

***Closing Hymn** (Printed on Page 11)

The Servant Song

***Closing Words of Worship** (Responsively)

Our worship has ended,
But now our service begins!
Go from this place for you
and I are the body of Christ
and the whole world awaits us;
So live passionately, and love faithfully,
and celebrate every moment of your life
from now until the Finale.
Our God of relentless grace goes with us!
Amen.
Amen.

~ Adapted from a prayer written by The Rev. Michael S. Piazza

Postlude

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Melchior Teschner

CCLI 1130980 CVLI 501138630

Time with your Children and the Bible this Week

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Ask the children if any of them have fallen down and scraped their knees or arms so badly that they couldn't help but cry. Or perhaps they have hit their head on the side of the car or smashed their hand in the car window. Do they remember how much it hurt?

Ask them to pretend that they have just hurt themselves and that they have come to you in their pain. You are going to tell them several things. After you have told them, you want to know which thing you said made them feel better. Any questions?

1. "Don't worry; you will feel better soon."
2. "Don't cry. That won't help."
3. "I did that once myself; I know it hurts."
4. "I'm sorry you are hurting. What can I do to help?"
5. "You better not ride that bicycle again if you are going to fall down."

Ask the children which statement you made, helped them the most? Agree that it was when you said you were sorry and how could you help.

Sometimes we cannot fix what is hurting for another person. And sometimes we cannot see when another person is hurting because they are hurting on the inside. Perhaps their pet died and they are sad. The important thing is to let the other person know you are sorry and you are their friend and will help any way you can.

Close with a prayer: *"Thank you, Jesus, for your example of caring and love. Help us to always be a good friend, especially when our friend is hurting. Amen."*

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WE WELCOME ALL CHILDREN



The presence of children is a gift to St. Stephen UCC. The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know they are at home here and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles.

- ♥ Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to engage.
- ♥ Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and other worship participants.
- ♥ Sing the hymns, pray, and participate in the responses. Children learn behavior from your modeling.
- ♥ If you have to leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back.
- ♥ If your children are age 5 and under just want to play, as they are made to do, we provide a nursery that is staffed for you.



7 Quotes about Kindness

November 5, 2010/Edited by Kate Huey

1. The Dalai Lama:

“Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.”

2. Philo of Alexandria:

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.”

3. Blood-stained kindergarten leaflet with day’s prayer when 4 girls were killed in the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama:

“Dear God, we are sorry for the times we were so unkind.”

4. Madeleine L'Engle:

“We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.”

5. W.H. Auden:

“We are here on earth to do good for others. What the others are here for, I don't know.”

6. Rabbi Harold Kushner:

“When you carry out acts of kindness you get a wonderful feeling inside. It is as though something inside your body responds and says, yes, this is how I ought to feel.”

7. Oprah Winfrey:

“I choose to rise up out of that storm and see that in moments of desperation, fear, and helplessness, each of us can be a rainbow of hope, doing what we can to extend ourselves in kindness and grace to one another. And I know for sure that there is no them...there's only us.”

- <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/your-life-better/7-quotes-about-kindness/>